

Message Text

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54

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SY-05 SSO-00 /034 W

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P R 181730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3413

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2019

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. IN SERIES OF SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS TODAY, SEVERAL MEA OFFICIALS OBSERVED THAT ROBINSON VISIT COMES AT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE TIME. WHILE AWARE OF POTENTIALLY POSITIVE IMPACT OF VISIT, WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS ADMIT CONCERN WHETHER HOSTS CAN PROPERLY FOCUS ON UNDER SECRETARY IN FACE OF PREOCCUPATION OVER GROWING THREAT OF INSTABILITY IN COUNTRY.
2. MEETINGS WITH COMMISSIONERS WUSHIAHI (INDUSTRIES) AND AKOBO (PETROLEUM AND ENERGY) CONFIRMED, BUT MATTALAB (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) HAS EXPRESSED INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE. INDICATION IS THAT GARBA WILL BE AWAY AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA.
3. WE HAVE ASKED FOR DEFINITIVE MEA VIEWPOINT ON VISIT, WHICH CAN COME ONLY FROM GARBA WHO WAS TIED UP ALL DAY WITH MEETING OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. WE ARE PROMISED GARBA'S DECISION FOR EARLY TOMORROW, FEB. 19.
4. IN SPITE OF UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES OF CURRENT LOCAL SCENE, INCLUDING ANTI-AMERICAN ANIMUS, EMBASSY SEES POSITIVE DIVIDENDS OF VISIT ALONG WITH NEGATIVE FACTORS AND RECOMMENDS THAT WE MAINTAIN PRESENT PLANS UNTIL TOMORROW'S READING FROM MEA. WE WILL GET IT TO YOU, ALONG WITH EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION, AT YOUR OPENING OF BUSINESS.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MEETINGS
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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